

## **DNR Accessibility Advisory Council Mtg.**

Monday, September 24, 2007

Okemos, Michigan

### **Advisory Council Present:**

- ☒ Sophie Baker, SOM, Dept of Civil Rights
- ☐ Cindy Burkhour, Access to Recreation Initiative
- ☐ Vendella Collins, SOM, Developmental Disabilities Council (MDCH)
- ☐ Jeff Coupie, Michigan Sports Unlimited
- ☒ Brigadier General Carol Ann Fausone, MI Department of Veterans Affairs
- ☒ Rodney Haneline, Leader Dogs for the Blind
- ☐ Aaron Harris, Safari Club
- ☒ Roberta McCall, SOM, Michigan Commission for the Blind (DLEG)
- ☒ Roger McCarville, Disabilities Today
- ☒ Scott Norris, SOM, Library of Michigan
- ☐ Lucia Rios, Disability Network – Lakeshore
- ☒ Scott Severn, MI Paralyzed Veterans of America
- ☒ Bill Sheffer, MI Assn of Recreation Vehicles & Campgrounds
- ☒ Jim Trinklein, MI Assn of Game Bird Breeders & Hunting Preserves
- ☒ Mark Velthouse, Outdoors Without Limits
- ☒ John Witzke, MI United Conservation Clubs
- ☒ Duncan Wyeth, SOM, Commission on Disability Concerns (DLEG)

### **DNR Present:**

- ☒ Bonnie Arthur, Communications
- ☒ Jordan Byelich, Parks & Rec
- ☒ Brenda Curtis, Forest Mineral and Fire Management
- ☐ Monica Day, Grants
- ☒ Jerry Harris, Human Resources
- ☐ Julee Hasbany, Communications
- ☒ Linda Hegstrom, Grants
- ☒ Sharon Lawrence-Taylor, Human Resources
- ☐ Dan Lord, Parks & Rec
- ☐ Sharlene McConneghy, Law Enforcement
- ☒ Erica Moore, Fisheries
- ☒ Tami Pattison, Fisheries
- ☒ William Pemble, OLAF
- ☒ Bill Rogers, Wildlife
- ☒ Peggy Ruby, Law Enforcement
- ☒ Donna Slater, Human Resources
- ☐ Paul Stoddard, OLAF
- ☒ Deb Stolecki, Forest Mineral and Fire Management
- ☐ Bruce Watkins, OLAF
- ☒ Ken Wright, Human Resources

**Guests Present:**

Amy Spray, MUCC  
Bill Milzarski, DLEG  
Erin Ours  
Chuck Nelson, MSU  
John Lanzon, MUCC  
John Hackney

Meeting called to order by Bill Pemble.

**Changes to Agenda:** None.

**Minutes:** Minutes from the August 13, 2007 meeting were accepted with no changes.

**Scheduling Future Meetings:** The next meeting is scheduled for November 5, 2007. Bill asked for opinions on a date for a December meeting, or hold off until January or February. After some discussion, it was decided to schedule a meeting for January 14<sup>th</sup>, at the same location in Okemos. It was also decided that future meetings stay on Mondays between 10:00am and 2:00pm.

**State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP):**

Chuck Nelson presented a power point on the document that is still under review. The final document will be presented to the NRC in November 2007, a decision will be made by the NRC in December 2007, it will be sent to the Governor for approval in December 2007, and presented to NPS by December 31, 2007. During the presentation Jerry received an email indicating that the document has just been posted on the web. There is a 30 day public comment time on the DNR website or vial mail. Public workshops will be held on Oct 4 Marquette, Oct 5, Grayling, Oct 9 Grand Rapids, Oct 11 Bay City, and Oct 12 Detroit. Any comments can be submitted to Chuck's email address at [nelsonc@msu.edu](mailto:nelsonc@msu.edu) or call him at 517-432-0272.

**Meet The DNR Chiefs: Parks & Rec's Chief Ron Olson:**

Ron gave a presentation on the activities of the P&R Division along with their progress. A questions and answer period was available after the presentation for council members.

**Access to State Wildlife Areas:**

Jim Trinklein introduced a member of the public, Mr. John Hackney, who contacted him through the DNR website. Mr. Hackney was invited to the council meeting to express his concerns. Mr. Hackney began with a discussion of state managed water fowl areas and large tracts of land with hunting areas. There are permanent and temporary wetlands, agriculture lands, flooded lands and cornfields. He requested that disabled hunters be allowed to use amphibious vehicles to access these hunting sites. He also requested that a

survey be done of hunters and fishers that applied for licenses 5 years ago and have not gotten one since to find out if a disability prevented them from doing so. Erica mentioned that the Land Use Rules be reviewed for all areas. Amy Spray from MUCC indicated that Senator Gleason will soon be introducing a bill for handicap access to hunting areas. Jerry thanked Mr. Hackney for coming and voicing his concerns and indicated that the council would be looking at the Senator Gleason bill.

### **Election of Officers:**

Bill discussed the one on one contact of the A-Team with Council members. Tami handed out an addendum to the bylaws indicating the support that would continue to be given by the A-Team. Jerry introduced all the A-Team members who in turn indicated which Council members they were assigned to contact. Bill Rogers indicated that today was his last AAC meeting as he is retiring. Erica distributed a current council roster. Jerry indicated that an election of officers would be brought to a closure at the November meeting.

**Hunting From A Standing Vehicle:** Peggy Ruby was introduced as the new representative from LAW, replacing Jackie Waber who recently retired. Committee members were defined as Jim Trinklein, Scott Severn, Jeff Coupie, John Witzke, Roger McCarville, General Fausone, Mark Velthouse, and Bill Milzarski. It was requested that the committee members stay after the AAC meeting was adjourned to form the general framework of their discussion for presentation at the November meeting. Peggy informed the group that when someone asks for a permit, CO's investigate in the field to determine eligibility. The council wants to make sure that our policy is more compatible with the law for disabled citizens. Discussion ensued on what does "unable to walk" mean?

**Update on Expo Opportunities:** Tami informed the council that we will be attending the Brain Injury Conference at the Lansing Center, September 27 & 28, 2007 thanks for General Fausone who secured a booth for us as a non-profit organization. The one page flyer that the A-Team developed will be available along with Go Out Doors and other pamphlets.

### **Council Response Items:**

Erica provided an update on the projects that she has been working on. She showed a new webpage that will be available soon on Accessible Recreation.

A DNR Chief will be invited to each AAC meeting to discuss their divisions. Dave Freed from OLAF will be the speaker at the November meeting.

Vicki Brown of Wildlife will be replacing Bill Rogers.

Links have been added to the DNR homepage that will link to the new Accessible Recreation page.

Erica reminded the council where to access the AAC council page for the 2007 meeting schedule, council roster list, and other items.

The Office of Communication is working on a ½ page promo that will be presented at the November meeting.

**Opportunities to Promote DNR Public Services:** Along with the ½ page promo, Bill asked the council to present ideas at the November meeting on how they can help put out the message of accessible recreation.

Bill asked the council to present ideas at the November meeting on how they can help promote the Department message of accessible recreation, especially those individuals with an established membership following or access to the media.

**Challenges Ahead:** Bill encouraged the council to submit any agenda items or discussion ideas to him via email.

**Public Comment:** Bill Milzarski requested that the council use their authority to reach out to other municipalities and local governments to inform them how they can become more accessible to handicappers. Jerry suggested that the council add this to their goals for next year.

Meeting Adjourned at 2:15pm.